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40. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 38, wherein said parallelogram drive has a hinged connecting rod from which a manual lever projects, said manual lever being accessible from the outside of the device for loading or unloading substrates.

41. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 22, further comprising:

a crank drive; and

a lock door, wherein said lock device includes a roller track and a receiving table, and wherein closing movement of said lock door, displacement movement of said receiving table, and lowering movement of said roller track are derived from a said crank drive.

42. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 41, wherein closing movement of said lock door, the displacement movement of said receiving table, and the lowering movement of said roller track and said lock door are arranged inside said lock device.

#### REMARKS

As requested by the examiner, a new specification as well as a marked-up copy are being submitted herewith.

Claims 22-42 are pending and they have been rejected as indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The pending claims have been considered against the provisions of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This consideration leads applicants to conclude that they in fact do comply with the provisions of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Still, claims 22, 23, 25, 28, 31 and 40-42 have been amended in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Several points raised by the examiner must be considered, however regarding his commentary relating to the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Consider the following:

**Comment:** no means for loading or unloading the substrates has been set forth.

**Reply:** the substrates 11 are shown as mounted in the transport box 13 which in turn moves on the roller track 75. The transport box 13 can be moved manually, if desired, through the lock opening 46 into the clean room once the roller track is moved to the opening by the receiving table 45, the latter being brought into engagement with the wall 40, and from the clean room back out onto the roller track 75. See the double arrow shown in Fig. 1. Nothing more is needed to support the recitation of "loading or unloading."

**Comment:** it is not understood where the substrates are derived from and where the substrates are delivered to.

**Reply:** where the substrates come from is irrelevant to the invention. Where they go is quite clear: they go to the clean room.

**Comment:** no structural means (walls, floor, etc) has been set forth to define the box, the installation and to support the lock device, etc.

**Reply:** no structural means other the identification of the structure itself is necessary. In other words it is sufficient in defining the transport box to recite a "transport box." This expression says it all. Consider the very references cited by the examiner. For example, in claim 1 of Bonora et al there is defined "a load port" with nothing more, because nothing more is needed.

**Comment:** it is not understood how the box is structurally received on the lock device.

**Reply:** the transport box 13 is received on the roller track 75 which in turn is part of the lock device 14. (see claim 30, for example).

**Comment:** how the adapter device is structurally held on the processing installation.

**Reply:** Figs 1 and 2 show how this is done. Note from Fig. 1, that the adapter device 20 is mounted for vertical and horizontal adjustment on the processing installation 16 by screws 27 and 28.

**Comment:** how the lock device is structurally fastened on the adapter device and what the lock device and the adapter device are structurally comprised of.

**Reply:** the lock device 14 is mounted held by the adapter device 20 and when the lock door 47 closes and seals the opening 46 the locking device 14 is held fast.

**Comment:** it is not understood how structurally a seal is produced between the adapter device and the installation, no gate or door means has been set forth to seal the opening and no releasable fastening means has been set forth for the lock device.

**Reply:** the door 47 acts as a plug door relative to the opening 46 and as such a seal is produced. The gear motor 67 moves the L-shaped arm 62 which is connected to the door 47. Note the double arrows indicating the movement of the arm 62.

**Comment:** improper alternative claiming is present in claims 23 and 25.

**Reply:** Applicants must respectfully disagree. the way to claim an alternative sequence containing the disjunctive is to introduce the sequence by the clause "one of" following by the sequence using the conjunctive. This is what was done in claims 23 and 25.

**Comment:** in claim 42, "lowering movement" lacks antecedent basis.

**Reply:** claim 42 depends from claim 41 which introduces the "lowering movement." There therefore is antecedent basis for "lowering movement" in claim 42.

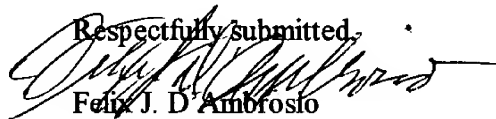
The above replies are all derived from the specification including the written text and the drawings.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 22-42 are definite and in full compliance with the provisions of 35 USC 112.

Claims 22-29 have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Bonora et al in view of Huang et al, and claims 31-38 have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Bonora et al in view of Huang et al and Japanese '347. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the very least what is found lacking in the cited references and their combination is a teaching which amounts to the adapter device as defined in the claims. Such a device must be located between the processing installation and the lock device, it must be held on the processing installation for adjustment relative thereto, and it must releasably fasten thereto the lock device. These limitations are not to be found in the cited references

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 22-42 found allowable. It is noted in this regard, that claims 30 and 39-42 have not been rejected over art

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS 22, 23, 25, 28, 31 & 40-42**

22. (Amended) A device for loading or unloading substrates into or out of a clean room, comprising:

a lock device provided with a hermetically sealable lock opening which provides access to the clean room;

a transport box [for receiving] having substrates situated therein, said transport box being received on said lock device for movement through said hermetically sealable lock opening into or out of the clean room;

a processing installation adjoining said hermetically sealable lock opening;  
and

an adapter device arranged between said processing installation and said lock device, and being held on said processing installation and adjustably oriented relative thereto, said lock device being releasably fastened on said adapter device.

23. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 22, wherein said adapter device includes means for adjusting said adapter device according to one of: [in] height with respect to said processing installation, [in] inclination with respect to a vertical axis defined by the device for loading or unloading substrates, [in] inclination with respect to a horizontal axis defined by the device for loading or unloading substrates, and [in] displacement relative to at least one of: said vertical axis and said horizontal axis.

25. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 24, wherein said adapter device is seated and displaceable on said stationary element according to at least one of: longitudinally and

transversely[, on said stationary element].

28. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 22, wherein said lock device has a plurality of receiving bores, and wherein said adapter device includes spaced apart indexing pins plugged into a respective one of said receiving bores [which are] said indexing pins being fittingly and essentially free of play when plugged into a respective one of said receiving bores.

31. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 30, wherein said roller track is pivotable by preferably  $\pm 90^\circ$  around a vertical axis defined by the device for loading or unloading substrates.

40. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 38, wherein said parallelogram drive has a hinged connecting rod from which a manual lever projects, said manual lever being accessible from the outside of the device for loading or unloading substrates.

41. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 22, further comprising:

a crank drive; and

a lock door, wherein said lock device includes a roller track and a receiving table, and wherein closing movement of said lock door, displacement movement of said receiving table, and lowering movement of said roller track are derived from a [similar] said crank drive.

42. (Amended) The device as defined in claim 41, wherein [the drive mechanism for the] closing movement of said lock door, the displacement movement of said receiving table, and the lowering movement of said roller track and said lock door are arranged inside said lock device.